

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 7, 12 through 25, and 30 through 50 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 13, 19, 24, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 being independent. Claims 1 through 5, 13 through 23, 31 through 37, 39, 40, and 42 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 6, 24, 38, and 41 have been amended.

Claims 6, 7, 12, 24, 25, 30, 38, 41, and 43 through 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,617,176 (Matsuzawa, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 24, 38, and 41 variously recite, inter alia, that in a case where an output of the vibration detection device is equal to or larger than a first predetermined amplitude value and is smaller than a second predetermined amplitude value, limiting the output using a first limitation manner in which a first predetermined attenuation ratio is multiplied onto the output, so as to make the output continuously leading to an output of the first predetermined amplitude value, and in a case where the output is equal to or larger than the second predetermined amplitude value, selecting one of (a) limiting the output using a second limitation manner in which a second predetermined attenuation ratio which provides an attenuation action larger than that provided by the first predetermined attenuation ratio is multiplied onto the output and (b) setting the output into a constant amplitude value, so as to make the output continuously leading to an output of the second predetermined amplitude value.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Matsuzawa, et al. fails to disclose fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 6, 24, 38, and 41. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited document that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that a full appreciation of these amendments will not require undue time or effort given the Examiner's familiarity with this application. Moreover, this Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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